



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/043,288
Applicant : Arnold Wilkie et al.
Filed : January 14, 2002
TC/A.U. : 1734
Examiner : Mayes, M.
Confirmation No. : 5437
Docket No. : 0818.0125C
Customer No. : 27896
Title : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING
POLYMER FIBERS AND FABRICS INCLUDING
MULTIPLE POLYMER COMPONENTS IN A CLOSED
SYSTEM

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.131

Sir:

ARNOLD WILKIE declares that:

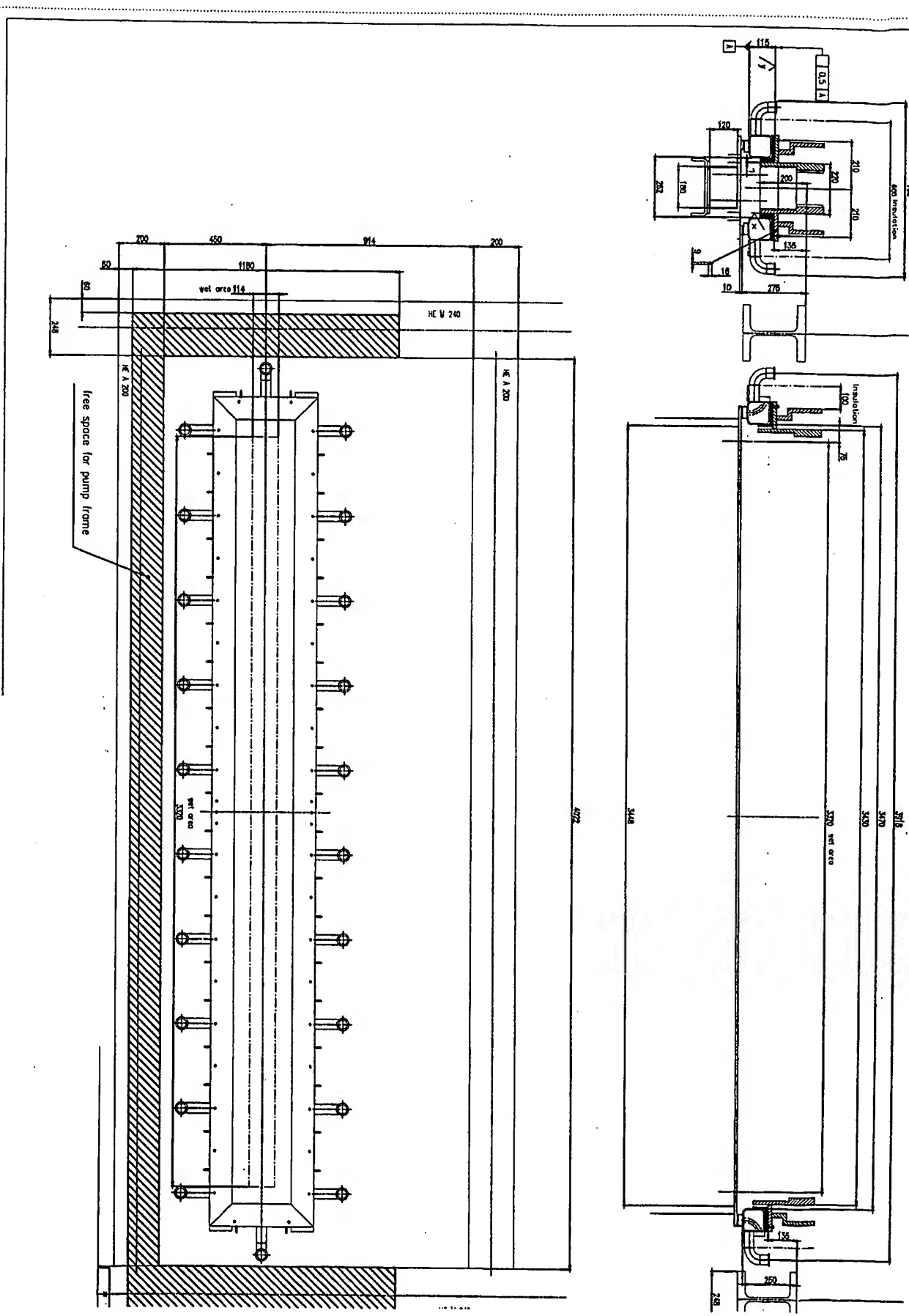
1. I am a co-inventor of the invention entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING POLYMER FIBERS AND FABRICS INCLUDING MULTIPLE POLYMER COMPONENTS IN A CLOSED SYSTEM", disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application.
2. Prior to August 3, 2000, Hermann Balk and I had conceived the invention of a method for forming a non-woven web of fibers as recited in claims 7-12 of the above-identified patent application.
3. Hermann Balk and I further exercised due diligence from our conception date, which was well prior to August 3, 2000, until the invention was actually reduced to practice and, further, until the filing date of the above-identified patent application by continuing efforts in developing and perfecting an embodiment for the invention. Evidence of conception of the

Declaration of Arnold Wilkie under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131
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invention prior to August 3, 2000 and our application of due diligence from the conception date to the actual reduction to practice date and filing date of the above-identified patent application is provided in the attached figure. The attached figure was prepared well before August 3, 2000 and shows detailed design diagrams of the interface configuration for connecting a spin beam assembly to a closed chamber system to facilitate performing the method steps of forming a non-woven web of fibers as recited in claims 7-12. In particular, the two top diagrams in the attached figure depict a cross-sectional view of the interface, and the bottom center diagram of the attached figure depicts another cross-sectional view of the interface that includes a bottom view of the spinneret (where the "wet area" section indicates the location of the spinneret orifices). Due diligence was exercised in developing the invention from our conception date to the time the invention shown in the attached figure was constructed and successfully utilized to perform the method steps as recited in claims 7-12.

4. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: 10/12/04 By: Arnold E. Wilkie
Arnold Wilkie





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Sir:

HERMANN BALK declares that:

1. I am a co-inventor of the invention entitled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PRODUCING POLYMER FIBERS AND FABRICS INCLUDING MULTIPLE POLYMER COMPONENTS IN A CLOSED SYSTEM", disclosed and claimed in the above-identified patent application.
2. Prior to August 3, 2000, Arnold Wilkie and I had conceived the invention of a method for forming a non-woven web of fibers as recited in claims 7-12 of the above-identified patent application.
3. Arnold Wilkie and I further exercised due diligence from our conception date, which was well prior to August 3, 2000, until the invention was actually reduced to practice and, further, until the filing date of the above-identified patent application by continuing efforts in developing and perfecting an embodiment for the invention. Evidence of conception of the

**Declaration of Hermann Balk under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131
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invention prior to August 3, 2000 and our application of due diligence from the conception date to the actual reduction to practice date and filing date of the above-identified patent application is provided in the attached figure. The attached figure was prepared well before August 3, 2000 and shows detailed design diagrams of the interface configuration for connecting a spin beam assembly to a closed chamber system to facilitate performing the method steps of forming a non-woven web of fibers as recited in claims 7-12. In particular, the two top diagrams in the attached figure depict a cross-sectional view of the interface, and the bottom center diagram of the attached figure depicts another cross-sectional view of the interface that includes a bottom view of the spinneret (where the "wet area" section indicates the location of the spinneret orifices). Due diligence was exercised in developing the invention from our conception date to the time the invention shown in the attached figure was constructed and successfully utilized to perform the method steps as recited in claims 7-12.

4. I further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date: October 14th, 2004 By: Hermann Balk
Hermann Balk

